

HELPLESSNESS WAS HIS THEME

Dr. Witherspoon Delivers Powerful Sermon on One of Great Christian Duties.

BE HELPERS TOWARD TRUTH

Need of Sympathetic Warmth and Kindness in the Church.

Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, pastor of Grace Street Presbyterian Church, last night preached a most powerful and forceful sermon on the duty of Christians in helping others toward the truth. The subject was presented in contradistinction to the one on the previous Sunday, which was on "hindering" in opposition to "helping."

Dr. Witherspoon's text was taken from the Third Epistle of John, fifth verse. He introduced his subject by a reference to two frequently mentioned words in the Bible, hinder and help. Hindering is a blindfolded struggle, he said, is more than a mistake; it is a punishable sin. One should never stand between man and his God or make hindrance to the soul that is seeking for the divine truth. He said that he believed in preaching so that the truth might be shown, so that it might be a help towards its attainment into the soul. It is well to preach eloquently and powerfully, but the greater glory is in bringing down the truth so that none might be without the gleam that brings eternal comfort and hope and shows the way to final salvation. He related an incident of a young man who had come to his church simply because he liked the music and had a personal interest in the pastor.

Finally, after two months, when he had not once entered the church doors, he not only entered but with him and brought him to see the light and the truth. And where is the fault in this? Who is responsible? The church and the people, the speaker answered, because of the lack of warmth, of sympathy and kindness. And so the lesson he preached is the one contained in the text: "Be ye helpers towards the truth."

Need Kindness.

In speaking of the need of the sympathy and kindness that should be shown by man for man, of the need for Christian counsel and endeavor among those in the fold for those whose steps are going astray from the path of light, the speaker showed the reaction of one soul on another; how often the words of one man on another, and that every man is either helping or hindering. As the speaker grew warm and eloquent with his subject, he pleaded for that influence which every life exerts on some other for good or for bad, to be so exerted that it might help some struggling soul, that the divine life be a reality. As announced by the pianist, as mercifulness has been shown man, so let him in turn show mercy, and as he has been filled with righteousness, let him stand for the right. Each Christian must be a co-worker with the great Helper in helping others toward a realization of the truth.

Two things vitally necessary for thus helping, said Dr. Witherspoon, are ability and kindness, as shown in the life of the great Helper, of whom Browning said: "His completeness flows around our incompleteness," with whom it is possible to have another's joy and sorrow, and from all the depths of woe and to wipe away all sin. Another important element is proximity. Christ is always near, always within reach, always within call of the dying soul. So must be the lowly helpers toward the truth, if they would be co-workers in the vineyard of life.

Lift Up the Fallen.

What is the church doing? What is the Christian doing? It should help the lowly and lift up the fallen, but are the followers of Christ helping as they should? "What are we here for?" he asked, and replying, said that "We are here to save souls, for noble purposes, for Christ, to help others attain their highest heaven which will at last include us all."

With a rare note of eloquence and powerful pleading, Dr. Witherspoon threw himself into his address, praying for help towards the truth, for the church to be as a lamp towards stumbling feet that know not where they go in the darkness of the soul, and not to be a stumbling block to those who seek, but cannot find, the light. "Let this blessed word, helpfulness," he prayed, "be emphasized on our souls. The lost and dying are all around us, and the Lord calls men to go and save."

"Philosophy of Fun."

A large audience assembled at the Neighborhood House, 321 Brook Avenue, last Tuesday night to hear the Rev. William E. Evans, D. D., deliver his excellent lecture on "The Philosophy of Fun." The Doctor was in his happiest vein, and kept his audience in a roar of laughter from start to finish. His rhetorical flights and pathos, interspersed with the humor of his subject, made the proceedings of the lecture go towards buying chairs for the chapel of the Neighborhood House.

PROFESSORS GIVE PUBLIC LECTURES

Dr. Boarwright Will Discuss the Place of Fine Arts in College Education.

Cards are now out announcing the faculty lecture course of Richmond College. These lectures promise to be of unusual interest. They are to be given on next Thursday evening, and will continue for the four succeeding Thursday evenings. The subjects and dates are:

February 8th—F. W. Boarwright, M. A., L. D., president, "The Place of Fine Arts in a College Course."

February 15th—J. M. Whitfield, M. D., professor of chemistry, "The Manufacture of Glass."

February 22nd—W. S. McNeill, Ph. D., LL. B., associate professor of law, "The Relation of Public Authority to Extrajudicial Trials."

March 1st—J. C. McNeill, M. A., professor of English, "William Shakespeare, Song-Maker. A Study of the Lyrics in the Plays."

March 8th—W. L. Foushee, M. A., Ph. D., professor of Latin, "Virgil in the Middle Ages."

The first lecture, that by President Boarwright, on the art will be given in the beautiful Thomas Museum Hall, and certain of the casts of works of art in the collection of the University will be shown. The other lectures will be given in college chapel hall, and all will begin promptly at 8:15 o'clock.

A reduced rate has been offered by the Richmond College of the State. Information along this line can be had on request to the officers of the convention, or from any of the secretaries of the various associations in the State. Richmond will be represented by a strong delegation, and there is every probability of a large convention.

TO BE DEDICATED WITHOUT A DEBT

Sufficient Money Raised to Pay All Bills of New Second Baptist Church.

At the morning service at the Second Baptist Church yesterday, a very large congregation was in attendance. After the usual service, and an excellent sermon by Rev. Dr. W. R. L. Smith, the pastor, an important and very inspiring meeting was held. Mr. E. D. Starke, chairman of the Finance Committee, presided, and the building itself, the best, most beautiful, and the finest in the city, and the furnishings, all combined had cost \$55,000. All of this amount had been raised except a little over \$6,000 and had been done without soliciting a dollar outside of the congregation. In conclusion, Mr. Starke said: "We propose to dedicate this completed and beautifully furnished building next Sunday morning. We must dedicate it to the service of God free of debt. We want to raise the necessary money this morning." Subscriptions commenced to come in at once, and without any further remarks, and in about a half an hour the sum of \$5,500 was raised. The subscriptions were in amounts from \$500 down to less than \$5. The congregation then sang "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow," and were dismissed. The beautiful edifice will be dedicated next Sunday morning with appropriate services, beginning at 11 o'clock.

The dedicatory sermon will be preached by Rev. Dr. W. W. Landrum, of Atlanta, former pastor of the church under whose pastorate the movement for the erection of the new building was begun.

HOW OFTEN TO FORGIVE.

Pastor Forsyth Shows the God-likeness of Forgiveness.

Rev. Mr. Forsyth preached at St. Paul's last evening on St. Peter's question: "Lord, how often shall I forgive him against me and I forgive him: till seven times?" And the Savior's reply: "I say unto thee, not unto seven times, but unto seventy times seven." He showed the God-likeness of forgiveness, and argued that man, who is made in the image of his Creator, should endeavor to conform himself to the pattern set by God in the person of His Son. In the morning, he said, he preached on the forgiveness of God toward men. His theme last night was the forgiveness by man of the faults of his fellowman. He held that forgiveness is good policy, is good practice, from the standpoint of worldly wisdom, but that above all it is to be desired and exercised as a matter of religious principle. He spoke eloquently, as usual, but was manifestly the worse for an indisposition which has overtaken him recently. For some days he has been quite unwell, and the preaching and evening yesterday the service was read for him by Mr. William C. Bentley, registrar of St. Paul's vestry.

The choir at St. Paul's last evening rendered with a particularly beautiful piece of music as an offertory, the words of the selection being the twenty-third Psalm.

REVIVAL BEGINS.

Interesting Services Held Yesterday at West End Church.

A series of revival services began at the West End Church last evening. Pastor Atkins preaching all at both appointments. Rev. E. L. Powell, the gifted Louisville pastor, will arrive this afternoon at 3:30, and will conduct the service to-night. Last night the church was filled. If the auditorium is found inadequate to seat the congregation, the West End Church, 1000 Grove Avenue Baptist Church will be used.

Slave to Prime Minister.

Rev. George H. Spooner, pastor of Broad Street Methodist Church, last night preached an able sermon from the name "Prisoner, Slave, Prime Minister," taking Joseph as subject for his discourse. The minister declared that the chief word in Joseph's vocabulary was God, and to God the man looked for guidance. His sermons, the lesson of faith, of fidelity to a purpose and of sincerity of motives; Joseph had looked to the skies, God's throne, and found strength, and the minister declared that the congregation that heard him filled the church to the doors, even the gallery being crowded.

Lift Up the Fallen.

What is the church doing? What is the Christian doing? It should help the lowly and lift up the fallen, but are the followers of Christ helping as they should? "What are we here for?" he asked, and replying, said that "We are here to save souls, for noble purposes, for Christ, to help others attain their highest heaven which will at last include us all."

CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN NORFOLK

Large Crowd Will Attend Big Y. M. C. A. State Meeting.

The twenty-ninth annual convention of the Virginia Young Men's Christian Association will be held in Norfolk, February 8th to 11th.

The committee is already at work formulating plans for the convention, which will be largely attended by delegates and visitors from all parts of the State.

The programme is very complete, and will be interesting, containing the following list of prominent speakers: The Rev. Carter Helm Jones, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.; T. M. Terry, of Lynchburg, leader in association work; Charles R. Towson, secretary railroad department, Philadelphia; Joshua Lovinger, of Baltimore, connected with association work for a number of years; representatives of the National Association, New York city; Fred B. Smith, secretary religious work department; E. T. Colton, secretary foreign and student departments; George B. Hodge, secretary educational department.

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